

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended and claims 13-15 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 5-7 and 11-12 include allowable subject matter.

I. The Specification Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the specification because of informalities. Applicants provide a substitute specification to expedite prosecution of the above-identified patent application. The specification is amended to correct minor informalities. Specifically, the spacing of words in the specification has been formatted so that there are no run-on words. In addition, page 3, line 2 has been amended to change "armature 3" to "armature 11". No new matter has been entered. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claims 1-12 due to informalities. The claims have been amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP4-334758. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, JP4-334758 does not disclose a starter system including "the second energizing circuit is connected in parallel with the first energizing circuit," as recited in claim 1. Moreover, JP 4-334758 does not disclose such first and second energizing circuits being controlled by an electronic control circuit.

Instead, JP4-334758 discloses at Fig. 1 two energizing circuits 3 and 5 that are connected in series. The series connection between circuits 3 and 5 of JP4-334758 teaches away from and is different from the parallel connection between the current switching device 4 and the shorting relay 5 of the invention. Based on these differences, it is respectfully submitted that the invention is non-obvious and patentably distinct from the cited reference. As such, claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

Furthermore, new independent claims 13 and 15 are also allowable. Specifically, claim 13 contains the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 5 written in independent form. Claim 14 depends from claim 13. Likewise, claim 15 contains the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 7 written in independent form.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 13 and 15 are distinguishable over the applied art. The remainder of the claims that depend from the independent claims are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Ian R. Vallejo
Registration No. 53,714

JAO:IRV/dap

Attachments:

Substitute Specification
Marked-up Copy of Specification

Date: October 6, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461